acme団 presents

SAIRUIU

by Hoko

chapter 5

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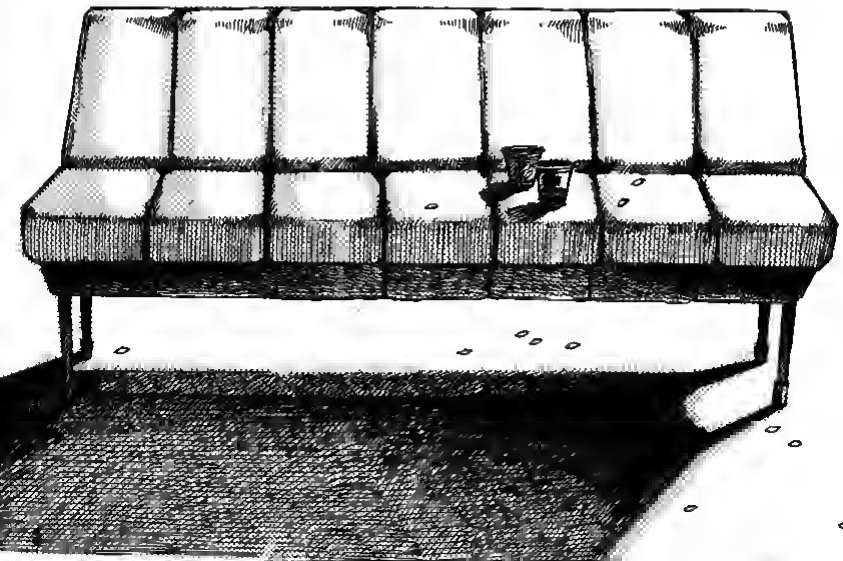
LAUNDREAM



T/N - Laundream is a coin-operated/dry cleaning laundromat chain in Japan

SHINE
MESSY...
CLICK
HAAA AAAAA AAA...
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
SHIVER
MESSY...
WASHING MACHINE
...
STENCH...
All the way over there

Sign reads Coin Laundry Bubble

FIGURE IT OUT ALREADY, UDO.
...!
...SORRY.
Bow
...?
...
...?
Figure out what?
ANYWAY, HURRY UP AND DO YOUR LAUNDRY.
YOU'RE REALLY SLOW, AREN'T YOU?
IT GOES UP TO HERE!
Uh
Oh

TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
...
...
hip
hip
CLATTER
!
...OH.
...
ARENT YOU SITTING A LITTLE FAR APART?
glance
HA HA ...
HA HA HA!
La la la la la la la
NOW YOU'RE TOO CLOSE.
Shift...
!
CLATTER
PFFT.
CLATTER

BEEP
..YEAH, IT'S ME.
PUONK...
...WHAT?!
JERK
JOLT!
?!
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO...
BE...
Oh...
thump
STARE
...
I'M TELLIN' YA...!
...!

RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
OOKI-SAN, LIM...
O-.
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
SQUEEEEZE
I'm sunny, I'm sunny!
Wanna say that again?
ARE YOU REALLY OOKI-SAN?
HM?
...
Hm

I...
I WANTED TO SEE YOU.
WHY ARE YOU HERE?
...
HUH?
...
LATELY, THEY'VE GRADUALLY BEEN
LETTING ME HANDLE NEW THINGS.
OH!
WELL...
THAT MUST BE DUE TO MY EXCELLENT GUIDANCE...
ME
I'm amazing!
OF COURSE.
ME
YOU TOOK OVER SOME OF MY WORK.
SO I THOUGHT I SHOULD CHECK ON YOU.
I've been so worried.
I'm sorry...
Sorry?
SORRY FOR WHAT?
Everything's going fine...
TAP

SO THEY'RE FINALLY STARTING TO RECOGNIZE YOU
JUST KIDDING
THAT'S GREAT
YOU'VE...
...ALWAYS WORKED REALLY HARD, HAVEN'T YOU?
HOW'S WORK AT THE MAIN OFFICE?
How
Pump
GOOD.
THEY GAVE ME A WARM WELCOME.
AFTER ALL, I'M TALENTED, SOCIABLE AND GOOD AT MY JOB.
Lease
screw...?
work
< ME

I'M THINKING ABOUT QUITTING.
OF COURSE YOU WOULD BE.
Heh
REALLY, THOUGH...
IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU.
STUPID. I WAS JUST KIDDING.
BUT...
THEY SAID A DULL PERSON LIKE ME ISN'T SUITED TO SALES
MY PARENTS AND FRIENDS ARE ALL WAITING FOR ME TO COME BACK HOME.
"GEEZE!"
I'M STARTING TO THINK THEY MIGHT BE RIGHT...
I'M...

THE ONLY LEGITIMATE THING ABOUT HIM IS HIS HEIGHT
OUCH.
Ha Ha Ha
WHAT? AMAMIYA?
YOU GOT IT, UDO.*
HONESTLY,
THAT GUY IS USELESS
*T/N – The characters for Amamiya can also be pronounced as "Udo" – 雨 ama/u 宮 miya/do
...
I GUESS THAT'S WHAT THEY MEAN WHEN THEY SAY
Ha Ha Ha ...
"NAMES AND NATURES DO OFTEN AGREE"
YEAH, REALLY.
HE PROBABLY JUST ISN'T CUT OUT FOR THIS.
*T/N – When used in a phrase, Udo can also mean "good for nothing." This is derived from the fact that a mature "Udo" plant (aralia cordata) is of no use because only the young plant can be eaten

IDIOT
YOU JUST FAIL TO HAVE AN EYE FOR GOOD PEOPLE
HUH...?
HIS NAME IS UDO, FOR CRYING OUT LOUD!
...MIGHT BE A LITTLE SLOW,
BUT HE WORKS HARDER THAN ANYONE HERE!
YOU KNOW, UDO PLANTS HAVE BEEN USED IN CHINESE MEDICINE SINCE ANCIENT TIMES...
HERE WE GO WITH OOKI'S USELESS TRIVIA
We ha ha ha!
Ha Ha ~
ANYWAY,
It's not useless!
HE...

FOR ME, AND FOR AN IDO.
AT LEAST THERE IS SOMEONE OUT THERE WHO RECOGNIZES OUR WORTH.
I KNOW IT'S LIKE SUGAR-COATING THE TRUTH.
THE TRUTH IS, THERE ARE JUST SOME THINGS THAT CAN'T BE DONE, EVEN IF YOU WORK HARD.
IF YOU HADN'T SAID THAT, I'D HAVE-...
BUT...
HUH?
...OH.
...WELL, THAT'S WHY I HAVE YOU TO THANK.
THAT'S
THAT'S ENOUGH.
I-
I'M SORRY.
I'VE SAID TOO MUCH.
...

Blush
IT'S...
IT'S FINE
GEEZ...
I-
I'M SORRY
AH...
...
BANG
Blush
...
DON'T GIVE ME THAT SHIT!
SMASH
BANG
SNAP
BLUSH
...

SHARE
GRINGE
SHARE
...FUCK!
FUCK!
STOMP
STOMP
STOMP
THUD
SWAP
TEAR
GAH!
...
Th-Thanks..
SNIFF
SNIFFSNIFF
BLOOO
OOOW
SOBSOBSOB
SOBSOBSOB
SNIFFLE
drip
drip
drip
drip
drip
U-UM...
ARE YOU
ALRIGHT?

MY GIRLFRIEND WANTS TO BREAK UP WITH ME
SHE GOT PREGNANT AND...
I WAS REAL HAPPY...
YOUR GIRLFRIEND, HUH?
OH—
I TRIED, Y'KNOW...?
I WANTED TO GET IT TOGETHER,
SO I WORKED REALLY, REALLY HARD—
I'M SERIOUS, I WORKED HARD! AND I FINALLY GOT A SERIOUS JOB AS AN ASSISTANT WORKER—SUB? I WAS SERIOUSLY HAPPY...
SERIOUS
Serious
Sea bass?*
I MEAN, I KNOW I HAVEN'T BEEN THERE FOR HER LATELY,
BUT I DID IT ALL FOR HER!
...3 3 3 U
—BUT THEN,
JUST LIKE THAT, SHE SAID SHE WANTS TO BREAK UP.
CRUSHED
UGH—
WAIL
Eh?
IS THIS REALLY ALL MY FAULT?!

*T/N Maybe this is kind of a stretch but the original was Maji" (Serious) and "Aji" (Horse Mackerel)

Note the accent.

A-
AMA-ZAKE
sniff
COFFEE.
RATTLE
CONK
OW.
I-
I'LL GO BUY SOME-THING TO DRINK.
WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE?
THANKS.
HE'S A GOOD GUY...
mumble ...
HE'S SUCH A GOOD GUY!
WOOF
Will cry over anything
—HE IS, ISN'T HE.

ARE YOU FEELING ANY BETTER?
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
RUMBLE
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
I AIN'T DEALIN' WITH THIS NO MORE!
Hic
AT HOULA DO?!
Oh, I GUESS NOT...
AIN'T DEALIN' WITH IT, YA HEAR?!
Oh, this from the smoke
Drunk

ARE YOU REALLY OKAY WITH THAT?
WHO CARES ABOUT THAT WOMAN.
...IS THAT REALLY WHAT YOU FEEL?
WITHOUT TELLING HER ANYTHING...?
NO
NO, IT'S NOT ALRIGHT!
Ah...
bawl
Idiot
Reversal

WHY NOT TELL HER WHAT YOU'VE BEEN TELLING ME?
I THINK YOU SHOULD GO SEE HER AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
HUH?
BUT WE JUST GOT INTO A FIGHT.
WHAT AM I SUPPOSED TO SAY?
...
WE JUST MET, BUT...
I COULD TELL FROM WHAT YOU'VE SAID THAT SHE'S VERY IMPORTANT TO YOU
...!
UM...!
CLACK
YOUR LAUNDRY
Oh
Ah

IT REALLY AIN'T A BIG DEAL, BUT...
OH,
YES ...?
?
BOW
Sorry about that
NOT AT ALL
THANKS!
LATER
BOW
This time...
I WAS THINKIN'...
YOU BOUGHT TWO DRINKS FOR ONE PERSON
YOU MUST BE REALLY THIRSTY OR SOMETHIN
DASH

TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
OOKI-SAN.
UDO.
I'M SORRY.
ONE WEEK AGO...

A CAR ACCIDENT?
..YES.
YES..
CLACK
..WHAT?
FLAP
FLAP
FLUTTER
AFTER A SINGLE PHONE CALL. I STOPPED SLEEPING.
DOO
DOO

DOO
WITHOUT EVER REALLY TAKING OFF...
BECAUSE...
EVERYTHING WAS JUST GETTING STARTED
...MY FEELINGS CAME CRASHING DOWN AROUND ME.
WHY...
...ARE YOU APOLOGIZING?
...WOULD FORCE ME TO SEE AN IMPOSSIBLE FUTURE.
MY DREAMS...
AND I KNEW THAT IF I SLEPT,

I WANTED TO TELL HIM.
...AS SLOWLY AS YOU NEED TO...
BUT I COULDN'T.
...I WANT YOU...
STARTING NOW...
...TO TELL ME HOW YOU FEEL
AND THEN.
I'D LOST ANY CHANCE TO.

I'VE...
I WON'T ASK YOU...
...TO TURN BACK TIME, SO...
I DON'T EVEN CARE...
...IF I HAVE TO SAY IT IN MY DREAMS.
I'VE...
ALWAYS...
...BEEN 'N LOVE WI'H YOU.
THAT DIDN'T REALLY COME OUT RIGHT...
IDIOT.
I WANTED TO TELL YOU.

NOD
...
Oh?
GO TO SLEEP
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
WOBBLE
... WOBBLE
I DON'T WANT TO...
WHY?
...
That's gross
Yawn...
Drool...
BECAUSE
IF I DO, YOU WON'T BE HERE ANYMORE, RIGHT?
JUST GO TO SLEEP.
...
GRAB

GEEZ
WHAT?
YOU CAN'T MAKE ME!
NO
SHAKE
SHAKE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE
TUMBLE

fwip...
fwip
?!
JOLT
I CAME TO DO LAUNDRY,
AND ENDED UP FALLING ASLEEP...
...haa——
...

OW
I HAVEN'T SLEPT LIKE THAT IN A WHILE.
crack
crack
SLIDE
SNNNN
WHY AM I CRYING..?

■End■